

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01751 060136Z

12

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W

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R 051550Z FEB 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C;

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: MIN ED PLANS FOR 1976

REF: MOSCOW 0268

1. DURING FEBRUARY FOUR MEETING WITH CAO, MIN ED (SHIRINSKIY) MADE EXTREMELY STRONG OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL PLEA TO RETAIN MARCH SCHEDULE FOR EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION SEMINAR AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED (REFTEL). HE SAID SOV DEL MEMBERS HAD ALREADY ARRANGED TIME FOR SEMINAR WITHIN THEIR SCHEDULES, AND POSTPONEMENT TO FALL WOULD INTERFERE WITH OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES. PRESENTATION, WHICH IMPLIED SOME MOMENTUM IN EXCHANGES SCHEDULE WOULD BE LOST BY DELAY, WAS MOST EMPHATIC MADE BY MID ED TO EMBASSY IN RECENT YEARS. CAO REPLIED WITH POINTS, REGARDING NEW SUBJECT AND PREPARATION TIME, MADE BY RICHMOND LAST MONTH, BUT SHIRINSKIY SAID PROGRAM PROPOSAL WAS QUITE SPECIFIC IN SCOPE AND HE HOPED US SIDE COULD RECONSIDER AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE PROGRAM IN TIME REMAINING.

2. SHIRINSKIY REPORTED MINED WAS PREPARING DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO BE SENT EMBASSY SHORTLY INVITING US TO NAME

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01751 060136Z

ONE MORE SEMINAR AND ONE MORE DELEGATION TO VISIT USSR

BEFORE END OF 1976 TO COMPLETE NUMBER CALLED FOR IN
1973/76 AGREEMENT. TIME AND SUBJECT TO BE CHOSED BY US.

3. SHIRINSKIY ALSO MADE PRESENTATION ON TOPIC DISCUSSED
WITH ASST. SECRETARY RICHARDSON LAST JUNE: A JOINT
COMMISSION ON TEXTBOOKS IN GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.
SOVIETS UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS OF DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES AND
US DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL
TO EXCHANGE FACTUAL MATERIAL. HE SAID SOVIETS COULD
RECEIVE A US GROUP IN 1976 AFTER EXCHANGING SAMPLES
OF MOST USED TEXTBOOKS, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND
THEIR DELEGATION LATER. RECOMMENDATIONS, NOT COMPULSORY,
WOULD BE SOUGHT FROM JOINT DISCUSSION BY EXPERTS.
SHIRINSKIY POINTED TO EXISTING COMMISSIONS OF THIS TYPE
WITH FRANCE, ITALY, AND FINLAND. DEPT COMMENT REQUESTED.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0684
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacrml.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 268
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGES: MIN ED PLANS FOR 1976
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006